
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5496

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION AND REMEDIAL SUPPORT.

SUMMARY:

This bill increases the remedial support the four Connecticut State Universities and 12 regional community-technical colleges must offer to make students college-ready (see BACKGROUND). It requires these institutions to offer a tiered remediation system to eligible students using supports and programs that are both embedded in and independent of required coursework, beginning in the fall 2014 semester. Remediation tiers in the bill consist of (1) embedded support as described in current law (see BACKGROUND), (2) intensive semester support, and (3) a transitional college readiness program (see Tiered Remediation System below).

The bill also allows the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and the State Department of Education to enter into a memorandum of understanding to deliver a transitional college readiness program that will enable adults to enroll directly in a college or university upon completion. It requires BOR, in consultation with Connecticut's P-20 Council and the BOR Faculty Advisory Committee, to develop options for this program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

TIERED REMEDIATION SYSTEM

Intensive Semester Support

The bill requires institutions to offer a student one intensive semester of remedial support when multiple commonly accepted measures of skill level indicate that the student is below the skill level required for college work even with embedded support. Intensive semester support must be (1) designed to provide the necessary

knowledge and skills to enter an entry-level college course and (2) available for the student to repeat, subject to the institution's course repeat policy.

Transitional College Readiness Program

The bill requires institutions to offer a student a transitional college readiness program (1) when multiple commonly accepted measures of skill level indicate that the student is below the skill level required to succeed in an intensive semester of remedial support and (2) before the student begins a new semester of study. The student must complete the program before receiving embedded or intensive semester support.

BACKGROUND

Current Remedial Support Requirements

By law, beginning in fall 2014, institutions may offer embedded remedial support or an intensive college readiness program only to eligible students, with a maximum of one semester of non-embedded support that is (1) intended to advance the student toward earning a degree and (2) approved by BOR (CGS § 10a-157a(b)).

Embedded Support

By law, institutions must offer a student embedded support when multiple commonly accepted measures of skill level indicate that the student is likely to succeed in college-level coursework with supplemental support. Embedded support must be (1) incorporated into a corresponding entry-level course in a college program and (2) offered during the same semester and in conjunction with the course to provide supplemental support (CGS § 10a-157a(b)).

P-20 Council

This statewide council, originally created in 2009 by Governor Rell's Executive Order, is a team of stakeholders comprised of educators, business leaders, and civic officials. The council builds stronger ties among educators and policymakers at all levels of education in the state, from preschool to graduate school (CGS § 10a-157a(a)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 1 (03/13/2014)